**Colonial Carriage and Driving Society**

**October 21, 2026**

Our meeting was called to order by our President, Harvey Waller at 8:30 pm. Approval of the minutes from our September 16th meeting were put to motion and Wayne Wilcox approved with the members accepting the minutes.

Our evening started with a fabulous potluck, and everyone enjoyed the company of fellow members. It was a great way to start the fall season. The weather has turned to the crisp air and fall foliage, not to be missed in the Berkshires. The party barn was filled with dried hydrangeas grown here on the Wallers' farm.

After our meal, we were introduced to our guest speaker, Dr John Perdrizet of Sanctuary Animal Clinic and his assistant Amy, who came from Holyoke to give us an overview of Chinese medicine that Dr Perdrizet, has added to his already many accomplishments in veterinary medicine. His name on his card is impressive on its own, Dr John Perdrizet, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, MS-TSVM. And he continues to work on small and large animals. His phone number is (413) 532-2175. He really shared so much great information with us on alternative medicine including treatments using acupuncture, herbal medicine, Tui-na (massage) and food therapy. Many questions from our club members showed an interest in this practice and I believe Dr Perdrizet will be getting calls from some of us. It's nice to have options. I think we all will agree.

**Treasurer's Report**

Financial report was given by Dr Ann Willey. She reported on the balance in our bank account after all the show expenses and fees were paid out.

**Membership Report**

The membership report was given and a reminder to everyone to send in their dues for the 2027 season. The fee is $35 for a family membership. Heather Navanti is awaiting your check or cash.

**Old Business**

We discussed the horse show and how to make it more enticing to participants. We will get back to that again soon. Ideas presented for the 2027 show included getting the chamber of commerce involved and perhaps the format being tweaked.

The Developing Driver Clinic was well attended with Taz Lester as the clinician. A private clinic was presented by Boyd Excell at Orleton Farm as well. Everyone that attended the clinics reported they got so much out of it.

Berkshire Coaching weekend was a great success. Thanks to the many members and community for volunteering. Eight turnouts were represented going to High Lawn Farm, The Mount, through the town of Stockbridge en route to a private estate. John Stollard spoke at the first opening day at High Lawn and gave the history and so much great information to the spectators.

**New Business**

New Business includes our Spring Clinic 2027 with Francois Bergeron. We are delighted to have him returning since our last year's clinic was well received by all participants.

Our Christmas and End of Year celebration will be the Sunday after Thanksgiving—November 29 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please RSVP to Maureen Gamelli maureengamelli2@gmail.com for attendance as we are having it catered.

Congratulations to club member Susan Vaill for her great success at the carriage driving horse show in Virginia. Susan was awarded many blues and they had a great time.

Equine Affaire is November 12-15 at the Eastern States Expo in W Springfield, MA. Jacob Arnold will be hosting the driving clinic on Sunday the 15th. Our own club member, Tracy Crosby, will be a participant in the clinic with her pair of Morgans. Let's all support her and stop by the ADS booth as well. The driving team from SNECDA will be doing a demonstration with the VSE Vixons miniature horse drill team on Saturday the 14th at 10 am in the Mallory building.

We want to welcome our new member Shanna Becker who joined us tonight and brought two very scrumptious pies. She has many driving horses and ponies and we look forward to seeing her join in on the club festivities going forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Karin O'Brien